

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A security system comprising:

a verifier for determining an authorization to process protected material, based on one or more responses to one or more requests, and

a timer for measuring response times associated with the one or more responses to the one or more requests,

wherein

the verifier determines the authorization based at least in part on an assessment of the response times, and wherein

the response times are correlated to a physical proximity between the verifier and a first source of the one or more requests, and between the verifier and a second source of the one or more responses; and

wherein the assessment of the response times involves ascertaining abnormal lag times between the one or more responses and the one or more requests based on predetermined lag times.

5. (Currently Amended) A security system comprising:

a verifier for determining an authorization to process protected material, based on one or more responses to one or more requests, and

a timer for measuring response times associated with the one or more responses to the one or more requests,

wherein

the verifier determines the authorization based at least in part on an assessment of the response times, ~~and~~ wherein

the assessment of the response times forms an assessment of whether the one or more responses were communicated locally to the verifier or via a network connection; and

wherein the assessment of the response times involves ascertaining abnormal lag times between the one or more responses and the one or more requests based on predetermined lag times.

6. (Currently Amended) A security system comprising:

a verifier for determining an authorization to process protected material, based on one or more responses to one or more requests, and

a timer for measuring response times associated with the one or more responses to the one or more requests,

wherein

the verifier determines the authorization based at least in part on an assessment of the response times, ~~and~~ wherein

the assessment of the response times forms an assessment of whether the one or more responses were immediately available, or whether the one or more responses were a result of a determination; and

wherein the assessment of the response times involves ascertaining abnormal lag times between the one or more responses and the one or more requests based on predetermined lag times.

7. (Currently Amended) A processing system comprising:

a renderer for receiving a plurality of data items corresponding to a data set, and for producing therefrom a rendering corresponding to a select data item;

a verifier, operably coupled to the renderer, for precluding the rendering corresponding to the select data item in dependence upon whether other data items of the plurality of data items are available to the renderer; and

a timer, operably coupled to the verifier and the renderer, for measuring response times associated with responses to requests for the other data items from the renderer,

wherein

the verifier precludes the rendering based at least in part on an assessment of the response times; and

wherein an assessment of the response times involves ascertaining abnormal lag times between one or more responses and one or more requests based on predetermined lag times.

8. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 7, wherein

the assessment of the response times corresponds to determination of whether the other data items are located in physical proximity to the renderer.

9. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 7, wherein the verifier is configured to form the assessment based on at least one of:  
an average of the response times,  
a comparison of the response times to one or more  
threshold times, and  
a statistical test based on the response times.

10. (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 7, wherein the verifier is configured to randomly select the other data items.

Claims 11-13. (Cancelled)